

# A 'SECRET' SOCIETY ROCKS THE NATION



BIRCH  
Their Hero

*Who is John Birch? The name of a young U.S. Army intelligence captain — John Morrison Birch — was lifted from the grave to grace a semi-secret society founded to expose communism and left-wingers. Today a storm of controversy wages around the John Birch Society and its militant founder, retired candy manufacturer Robert*

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*Welch. Angry Congressmen have asked, and Welch has welcomed, a full-scale investigation of his writings that label former President Eisenhower, his brother Milton, and the late John Foster Dulles as Communists. This is the first in a series of articles on the operation of the society here and elsewhere.*



WELCH  
Their Boss

# They Know John Birch In Our Town, Too

By VERNIE O. WILLIAMS

In Miami, as well as elsewhere in Florida and 34 other states, are chapters of a controversial organization called the John Birch Society that until just recently was highly successful in shunning publicity.

A cloak of secrecy surrounds its members as well as any step they may take locally in the society's fight against anything smacking of communism, by its standards.

The leaders of some chapters have raised a storm of indignation recently in Santa Barbara, Calif., the Birch Society members were accused of anonymous phone calls denouncing ministers and college professors as Reds.

A Congressman in North Dakota found himself under fire as a dupe of Communists when he protested that a pro-Birch resolution could cost the state a federal dam.

School teachers and principals in Wichita, Kan., were angrily denounced by a city member who thought they detected "Communist influence" in classroom lectures.

For the Birch Society defenders — which includes such prominent names as former Commissioner of Internal Revenue T. J. Coughlin, former Gov. of South Carolina George W. Wallace, and Sen. Barry Goldwater — with claims

Among these are "less government, more responsibility and a better world to live in."

One active local chapter leader says he is sure no extremist tactics have been used in Miami. He is Miami Beach stockbroker Jay George, a resident of Palm Island.

"No anonymous telephone calls ever made. It would be completely out of line," George said emphatically.

George politely declines to say deeply into local "processes" of the Birch Society or exactly it might tend to identify some members.

He points out that the basic policy of the society nationally

not to give out names of any members. Neither he or society headquarters at Belmont, Mass., will even say how many chapters or members there are in Florida.

However, society literature clearly identifies Floridians headed by colorful Gen. Sumter L. Lowry, former segregationist candidate for governor; Dr. E. C. Committee of Friends.

The other four are Mr. and Mrs. Frederick S. Lovell, Mr. A. Gray Bush, Dr. James Gaskins, Sydney Houston, and Mrs. F. V. Lovell.

Other states say the same thing, according to their